

## *CLONING PROTECTION FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT*

### ABSTRACT

5 A method and apparatus for protecting electronic devices from cloning  
employs an electronic signature generated from an identification code for the  
electronic device (e.g., an electronic serial number (ESN), an international mobile  
equipment identifier (IMEI), or the like) and a unique, unchangeable identification for  
a hardware component of the electronic device code (e.g., a flash hardware serial  
number, or the like). The electronic signature is encrypted and stored to the non-  
10 volatile memory of the electronic device for verifying the authenticity of the  
electronic device's identification code to prevent use of the device for cloning a  
second electronic device.